

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the  
Western District of Washington

In the Matter of the Search of

(Briefly describe the property to be searched  
or identify the person by name and address)

Two (2) Subject Device: A BLU View 3 Cell Phone  
and a Samsung Galaxy A8 Table, more fully  
described in Attachment A.

Case No. MJ25-136

## APPLICATION FOR A SEARCH WARRANT

I, a federal law enforcement officer or an attorney for the government, request a search warrant and state under penalty of perjury that I have reason to believe that on the following person or property *(identify the person or describe the property to be searched and give its location)*:

Two (2) Subject Device: A BLU View 3 Cell Phone and a Samsung Galaxy A8 Table, more fully described in Attachment A.

located in the Western District of Washington, there is now concealed *(identify the person or describe the property to be seized)*:

See Attachment B, incorporated herein by reference.

The basis for the search under Fed. R. Crim. P. 41(c) is *(check one or more)*:

- ☒ evidence of a crime;  
☒ contraband, fruits of crime, or other items illegally possessed;  
☒ property designed for use, intended for use, or used in committing a crime;  
☐ a person to be arrested or a person who is unlawfully restrained.

The search is related to a violation of:

Code Section

18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(2),(b)(2)

Offense Description

Possession of Child Pornography

The application is based on these facts:

- ☒ See Affidavit of FBI Special Agent Kelly H. Forest, continued on the attached sheet.

☐ Delayed notice of \_\_\_\_\_ days (give exact ending date if more than 30 days: \_\_\_\_\_) is requested under 18 U.S.C. § 3103a, the basis of which is set forth on the attached sheet.

Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1, this warrant is presented: ☒ by reliable electronic means; or: ☐ telephonically recorded.

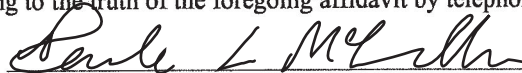


Applicant's signature

Kelly H. Forest, Special Agent (FBI)

Printed name and title

- ☐ The foregoing affidavit was sworn to before me and signed in my presence, or  
☒ The above-named agent provided a sworn statement attesting to the truth of the foregoing affidavit by telephone.

Date: 03/14/2025


Judge's signature

City and state: Seattle, Washington

Paula L. McCandlis, United States Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

1                                   **AFFIDAVIT OF SPECIAL AGENT KELLY FOREST**

2 STATE OF WASHINGTON        )

3                                   )       ss

4 COUNTY OF SNOHOMISH       )

5  
6           I, Kelly Forest, a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI),  
7 Seattle, Washington, having been duly sworn, state as follows:

8                                   **AFFIANT BACKGROUND**

9           1.     I am a Special Agent (“SA”) with the Federal Bureau of Investigation  
10 (“FBI”) and have been so employed since 2020. I am a law enforcement officer of the  
11 United States, within the meaning of Title 18, United States Code, who is empowered by  
12 law to conduct investigations of, and to make arrests for offenses enumerated in Title 18,  
13 United States Code.

14          2.     I am assigned to the Everett and Bellingham Resident Agency as part of the  
15 FBI’s Seattle Field Office, where I specialize in Violent Crimes Against Children and  
16 Human Trafficking investigations occurring in Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom, Island, and  
17 San Juan counties, which are situated in the Western District of Washington. I am  
18 assigned to the FBI Seattle’s Crimes Against Children & Human Trafficking Task Force,  
19 which includes investigations of the online sexual exploitation of children involving the  
20 transmission, possession and production of child pornography, exploitation of children on  
21 the internet, and other federal criminal activity. I am also a member of the Seattle  
22 Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (“Seattle ICAC”). The goal of the Seattle  
23 ICAC is to catch distributors of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) on the Internet,  
24 whether delivered on-line or solicited on-line and distributed through other channels and  
25 to catch sexual predators who solicit victims on the Internet through chat rooms, forums  
26 and other methods.

1           3.       During my career as an FBI Special Agent, I have served as the case agent  
2 in numerous child exploitation investigations. I have participated in all aspects of child  
3 exploitation investigations, including conducting surveillance, undercover operations,  
4 identifying victims, interviewing suspects, and executing arrest and search warrants. I  
5 have received training and gained experience in interviewing and interrogation  
6 techniques, arrest procedures, search warrant applications and executions, computer  
7 evidence identifications, computer evidence search and seizures, and various other  
8 criminal laws and procedures. I have received training regarding child pornography and  
9 child exploitation, and I have observed and reviewed examples of child pornography in  
10 various forms of media, including media stored on digital media storage devices.

11           4.       As further detailed below, based on my investigation and the investigation  
12 of other law enforcement officers, I believe there is probable cause to conclude that a  
13 BLU View 3 cell phone and a Samsung Galaxy A8 Tablet (hereafter SUBJECT  
14 DIGITAL DEVICES) used by ROBERT ANTHONY FIORE, will contain evidence,  
15 fruits, and instrumentalities, of violations of Title 18 United States Code Sections  
16 2252(a)(2),(b)(2) Possession of Child Pornography and 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(2) and (b)(1)  
17 Receipt or Distribution of Child Pornography.

18           5.       The information contained in this affidavit consists of my personal  
19 knowledge gained through this investigation, information provided by other law  
20 enforcement officers involved in this investigation, information provided by witnesses  
21 and others with knowledge of the relevant events and circumstances, information gleaned  
22 from my review of evidence, and my training and experience. Because this affidavit is  
23 offered for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause, I list only those facts that I  
24 believe are necessary to support such a finding. I do not purport to list every fact known  
25 to me or others as a result of this investigation.

26 //

27 //

**INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF AFFIDAVIT**

6. Based on my training and experience and the facts as set forth in this affidavit, there is probable cause to search the following SUBJECT DIGITAL DEVICES for evidence of violations of Title 18 United States Code Sections 2252(a)(4), (b)(2), Possession of Child Pornography and 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(2) and (b)(1) Receipt or Distribution of Child Pornography;

a. a BLU View 3 cell phone IMEI 353145920663719 (hereinafter SUBJECT DIGITAL DEVICE A);

b. a Samsung Galaxy A8 Tablet bearing S/N R9YT202ZF3N (hereinafter SUBJECT DIGITAL DEVICE B);

7. There is probable cause to believe the above-described SUBJECT DIGITAL DEVICES A and B used by ROBERT FIORE will contain evidence of this crime and contraband or fruits of this crime, as described in Attachment B.

**DEFINITIONS**

The following definitions apply to this affidavit:

8. “Chat,” as used herein, refers to any kind of text communication over the internet that is transmitted in real-time from sender to receiver. Chat messages are generally short in order to enable other participants to respond quickly and in a format that resembles an oral conversation. This feature distinguishes chatting from other text-based online communications such as internet forums and email.

9. For the purposes of this affidavit, a “minor” refers to any person less than eighteen years of age and for the purpose of this search warrant, “Child pornography,” as used herein, is defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256 (any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct where (a) the production of the visual depiction involved the use of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct, (b) the visual depiction is a digital image, computer image, or computer-generated image that is, or is indistinguishable from, that of a minor

1 engaged in sexually explicit conduct, or (c) the visual depiction has been created,  
2 adapted, or modified to appear that an identifiable minor is engaged in sexually explicit  
3 conduct).

4 10. “Sexually explicit conduct” means actual or simulated (a) sexual  
5 intercourse, including genital-genital, oral-genital, or oral-anal, whether between persons  
6 of the same or opposite sex; (b) bestiality; (c) masturbation; (d) sadistic or masochistic  
7 abuse; or (e) lascivious exhibition of the genitals or pubic area of any person. See 18  
8 U.S.C. § 2256(2).

9 11. “Cloud-based storage service,” as used herein, refers to a publicly  
10 accessible, online storage provider that collectors of depictions of minors engaged in  
11 sexually explicit conduct can use to store and trade depictions of minors engaged in  
12 sexually explicit conduct in larger volumes. Users of such a service can share links and  
13 associated passwords to their stored files with other traders or collectors of depictions of  
14 minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct in order to grant access to their collections.  
15 Such services allow individuals to easily access these files through a wide variety of  
16 electronic devices such as desktop and laptop computers, mobile phones, and tablets,  
17 anywhere and at any time. An individual with the password to a file stored on a cloud-  
18 based service does not need to be a user of the service to access the file. Access is free  
19 and readily available to anyone who has an internet connection.

20 12. “Computer,” as used herein, refers to “an electronic, magnetic, optical,  
21 electrochemical, or other high speed data processing device performing logical or storage  
22 functions, and includes any data storage facility or communications facility directly  
23 related to or operating in conjunction with such device,” including smartphones and  
24 mobile devices.

25 13. “Data,” as used herein refers to the quantities, characters, or symbols on  
26 which operations are performed by a computer, being stored and transmitted in the form  
27 of electrical signals and recorded on magnetic, optical, or mechanical recording media.

1 14. "Digital Devices" as used herein refers to any physical object that has a  
2 computer, microcomputer, or hardware that is capable of receiving, storing, possessing,  
3 or potentially sending data.

4 15. "Internet Service Providers" ("ISPs"), as used herein, are commercial  
5 organizations, community-owned, non-profit, or otherwise privately-owned companies  
6 that are in business to provide individuals and businesses access to the internet. ISPs  
7 provide a range of functions for their customers including access to the internet, web  
8 hosting, e-mail, remote storage, and co-location of computers and other communications  
9 equipment.

10 16. "Mobile applications," as used herein, are small, specialized programs  
11 downloaded onto mobile devices that enable users to perform a variety of functions,  
12 including engaging in online chat, reading a book, or playing a game.

13 17. "Records," "documents," and "materials," as used herein, include all  
14 information recorded in any form, visual or aural, and by any means, whether in  
15 handmade, photographic, mechanical, electrical, electronic, or magnetic form.

16 18. "User Attributes," as used herein refers to any tangible data, documents,  
17 settings, programs, or other information that provides information related to the identity  
18 of the specific user of the device, computer, application, program, or record.

19 **INDIVIDUALS WITH A SEXUAL INTEREST IN MINORS**

20 19. Based upon my knowledge, experience, and training in depictions of  
21 minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct investigations, and the training and  
22 experience of other law enforcement officers with whom I have had discussions, I know  
23 that there are certain characteristics common to individuals with a sexual interest in  
24 minors who are involved in depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct as  
25 described below.

26 20. Those who possess, receive and attempt to receive depictions of minors  
27 engaged in sexually explicit conduct may receive sexual gratification, stimulation, and



1 satisfaction from contact with children; or from fantasies they may have viewing children  
2 engaged in sexual activity or in sexually suggestive poses, such as in person, in  
3 photographs, or other visual media; or from literature describing such activity. As  
4 described herein, FIORE was in possession of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) and  
5 using Telegram to purchase CSAM. Based upon FIORES's 2021 conviction for  
6 Possession of Obscene Matter of Minor in Sexual Act coupled with his current state  
7 prosecution for Possession of Child Pornography and Dealing in Depictions of Minors  
8 Engaged in Sexually Explicit Conduct (based upon the conduct described below), there is  
9 ample evidence to confirm FIORE's sexualized interest in minors.

10 21. Those who possess, receive and attempt to receive depictions of minors  
11 engaged in sexually explicit conduct may keep records, to include names, contact  
12 information, and/or dates of their interaction, of the children they have attempted to  
13 seduce, arouse, or with whom they have engaged in the desired sexual acts.

14 22. Those who possess, receive, and attempt to receive depictions of minors  
15 engaged in sexually explicit conduct often maintain their collections that are in a digital  
16 or electronic format in a safe, secure, and private environment, such as a computer and  
17 surrounding area. These collections are often maintained for several years and are kept  
18 close by, usually at the individual's residence, to enable the collector to view the  
19 collection, which is valued highly. Again, FIORE is a convicted sex offender who has  
20 maintained a sexualized interest in minors which he has cultivated by possessing  
21 depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

22 23. Those who possess, receive and attempt to receive depictions of minors  
23 engaged in sexually explicit conduct also may correspond with and/or meet others to  
24 share information and materials; rarely destroy correspondence from other depictions of  
25 minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct distributors/collectors; conceal such  
26 correspondence as they do their sexually explicit material; and often maintain lists of  
27 names, addresses, and telephone numbers of individuals with whom they have been in

1 contact and who share the same interests in depictions of minors engaged in sexually  
2 explicit conduct.

3 24. Those who possess, receive, and attempt to receive depictions of minors  
4 engaged in sexually explicit conduct prefer not to be without their depictions of minors  
5 engaged in sexually explicit conduct for any prolonged time period. This behavior has  
6 been documented by law enforcement officers involved in the investigation of depictions  
7 of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct throughout the world.

8 **SUMMARY OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

9 25. In February of 2025, Detective Sean Culbertson, Seattle Police Department  
10 (SPD), contacted the FBI regarding a Marysville Police Department (MPD) investigation  
11 into ROBERT ANTHONY FIORE. Detective Culbertson introduced me to MPD  
12 Detective Brandon Blake who was the assigned detective of the case. Detective Blake, a  
13 member of the Seattle Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC), explained  
14 he received a Cybertip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children  
15 (NCMEC), reporting child sexual abuse material (CSAM) detected on a Dropbox user's  
16 account. Detective Blake provided me with the Cybertip and the returns from Dropbox,  
17 which I reviewed.

18 26. Based on my training and experience, I know that Electronic Service  
19 Providers ("ESPs") (e.g. Google, Meta, Snapchat, Yahoo) typically monitor their own  
20 services used by their subscribers. To prevent their communication networks from  
21 serving as conduits for illicit activity and pursuant to the terms of user agreements, ESPs  
22 routinely and systematically attempt to identify suspected depictions of minors engaged  
23 in sexually explicit conduct that may be sent through their facilities.

24 27. When the ESP detects such a file on its platform, the ESP reports that fact  
25 to NCMEC's CyberTipline. By statute, an ESP has a duty to report to NCMEC any  
26 apparent depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct it discovers "as soon  
27



1 as reasonably possible.” 18 U.S.C. § 2258A(a)(1). The CyberTipline report transmits the  
2 intercepted file from the ESP to NCMEC.

3 28. In the Cybertip submitted by Dropbox on October 11, 2024, CSAM was  
4 detected on a Dropbox user’s account on October 10, 2024. Along with the report,  
5 Dropbox provided a video, which is described as follows:

6 a. A fully nude female child laying backside on a bed with her legs  
7 spread and vagina fully exposed. An adult female with brown hair begins to lick the  
8 child’s vagina. The remainder of the video depicts the adult female performing oral sex  
9 on the child. At one point, the adult female repositioned the child’s body closer to the  
10 camera. Based on the child’s lack of pubic hair and breast development, and the size of  
11 her body compared to the adult female, I estimate her age to be between 7 and 11 years  
12 old.

13 I reviewed this file and believe it meets the federal definition of child pornography, as  
14 defined in 18 U.S.C. 2256(8).

15 29. Additionally, Dropbox provided the following name, email, and registration  
16 date and time for the account: Steve, [stevlipshits@gmail.com](mailto:stevlipshits@gmail.com), October 10, 2024  
17 22:51:11 UTC. I noticed the registration date of the account was the same date Dropbox  
18 detected the CSAM.

19 30. On or around February 5, 2025, Detective Blake issued search warrants to  
20 Google for email address [stevlipshits@gmail.com](mailto:stevlipshits@gmail.com) and to Comcast for the IP address  
21 associated with the Dropbox account at the time of registration,  
22 2601:601:8303:4f80:4c69:efba:8849:8bdb. Detective Blake reviewed the records and  
23 identified the Google Pay customer name and address was Rob Fiore, XXXXX 25<sup>th</sup> Ave  
24 NE, apt MXXX.

25 31. The Comcast returns for the IP address associated with the Dropbox  
26 account on October 10, 2024 22:51:11 UTC resolved to address XXXXX 25<sup>th</sup> Ave NE,  
27

1 apt MXXX, Marysville, WA. This was the same address listed for the Google Pay  
2 customer address.

3 32. I reviewed the Google returns and identified numerous selfie-style photos  
4 of FIORE in the “photos” folder. I also observed a photo of a Washington State driver’s  
5 license with the name Robert Anthony Fiore, date of birth (DOB) XX/XX/1970 and  
6 address XXXXX 25<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, apt MXXX, Marysville, WA. This is the same address  
7 associated with the Google Pay customer address and Comcast returns.

8 33. I reviewed FIORE’s criminal history and saw that FIORE had a previous  
9 misdemeanor conviction for Possession of Obscene Matter of Minor in Sexual Act in  
10 2021, and he is actively registered as a sex offender.

11 34. On February 14, 2025, I accompanied MPD and ICAC on a residential  
12 search warrant of FIORE’s Marysville, Washington residence. According to Detective  
13 Blake’s report, following advisement and waiver of his constitutional rights, FIORE  
14 confirmed he used email addresses [robfiore@bellsouth.net](mailto:robfiore@bellsouth.net) and [stevelipshits@gmail.com](mailto:stevelipshits@gmail.com).  
15 He admitted to chatting with minors online for the last year, where the youngest person  
16 claimed to be 12 years old. He said he was chatting with more than a dozen people who  
17 claimed to be minors.

18 35. During the search, another ICAC detective showed me messages from  
19 FIORE’s Telegram account. I noticed a conversation between FIORE and another  
20 Telegram user where they were discussing the price of CSAM. The other Telegram user  
21 sent FIORE screenshots of a Telegram channel named “legit teen cp group” with  
22 thumbnail images of CSAM and Mega file downloads. The other user then sent FIORE a  
23 Bitcoin wallet address, and FIORE responded with a screenshot of a Bitcoin transaction  
24 of approximately \$50 USD to the same wallet address. The transaction took place on  
25 February 13, 2025. Additionally, on February 14, 2025, FIORE confessed to purchasing  
26 CSAM as recent as “last night,” (February 13, 2025).  
27

36. MPD seized two digital devices during the execution of the residential search warrant at FIORE's apartment: one BLU View 3 cell phone IMEI 353145920663719 (SUBJECT DIGITAL DEVICE A) and one Samsung Galaxy A8 Tablet bearing S/N R9YT202ZF3N (SUBJECT DIGITAL DEVICE B). Based on my training and experience, neither SUBJECT DIGITAL DEVICE is manufactured in the State of Washington. The SUBJECT DIGITAL DEVICES are currently secured at FBI Seattle.

## TECHNICAL BACKGROUND

37. Courts have recognized that the majority of Americans possess and use cellular telephones, and that most of those keep the phones within their reach at all times. Cellular telephones are used for, among other things, voice, text, email, and SMS communications; accessing and posting to social networking websites, surfing the internet, taking, and storing photographs, creating, and storing documents, notes, music, mapping directions to places, etc. Courts have recognized that these devices “smart phones” are essentially small computers with vast storage capacities. Information deleted by the user can be recovered, years after deletion, upon examination of a cell phone’s data.

38. Based on my training and experience, I know that the development of computers and portable digital devices in general have revolutionized the way in which those who seek out depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct are able to obtain this material. Computers serve four basic functions in connection with depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct: production, communication, distribution, and storage. Additionally, I know that the computer's capability to store images in digital form makes it an ideal repository for depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. The size of the electronic storage media (often referred to as a "hard drive") used in home computers has grown tremendously within the last several years. Hard

1 drives with the capacity of terabytes are not uncommon. These drives can store  
2 thousands of images and/or videos at a high resolution.

3 39. Based on my training and experience and information provided to me by  
4 electronic forensic detectives and agents, I know that data can quickly and easily be  
5 transferred from one digital device to another digital device via messages, apps, file  
6 sharing etc., and via a USB cable or other wired connection. Data can be transferred  
7 from computers or other digital devices to internal and/or external hard drives, tablets,  
8 mobile phones, and other mobile devices via a USB cable or other wired connection.  
9 Data can also be transferred between computers and digital devices by copying data to  
10 small, portable data storage devices including USB (often referred to as “thumb”) drives,  
11 memory cards (Compact Flash, SD, microSD, etc.) and memory card readers, and optical  
12 discs (CDs/DVDs).

13 40. Based on my training and experience, collectors and distributors of  
14 depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct also use online, remote,  
15 resources to retrieve and store depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct,  
16 including services offered by companies such as Google, Yahoo, Apple, Amazon, and  
17 Dropbox, among others. The online services allow a user to set up an account with a  
18 remote computing service that provides email services and/or electronic storage of  
19 electronic files in any variety of formats. A user can set up, and access, an online storage  
20 account from any digital device with access to the Internet. Evidence of such online  
21 storage of depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct is often located on  
22 the user’s computer or smart phone.

23 41. Based on my training and experience, communications by way of a  
24 computer/smart device can be saved or stored on the computer/smart device used for  
25 these purposes. Storing this information can be intentional, i.e., by saving an email or  
26 saving the location of one's favorite websites in, for example, “bookmarked” files.  
27 Digital information can also be retained unintentionally, e.g., traces of the path of an

1 electronic communication may be automatically stored in many places (e.g., temporary  
2 files or ISP client software, among others). Examples of this stored data include user-  
3 created or saved data, such as contact lists, messages sent and received, images, audio  
4 and video files, personal calendars, notes, prescriptions, bank statements, videos,  
5 documents, and images; as well as device-generated data, such as user identity  
6 information, passwords, usage logs and information pertaining to the physical location of  
7 the device over time. Examples of data stored in a smart phone that can reveal a person's  
8 location at specific dates and times include metadata and EXIF tags associated with  
9 photographs; IP addresses, which are associated with a geographic location; and  
10 geographic location associated with the phone sending/receiving signals with cell towers  
11 and satellites. As such, a person's use of the smart phone can reveal where a person has  
12 been at dates and times relevant to the crime(s) under investigation; a person's activity at  
13 relevant dates and times, and/or places a person frequents at which that person is likely to  
14 be found for arrest or at which the suspect stored or inadvertently left evidence behind.

15 42. In addition to electronic communications, a user's Internet activities  
16 generally leave traces or "footprints" and history files of the browser application used. A  
17 forensic examiner often can recover evidence suggesting whether a computer/smart  
18 device was using a specific website or application, and when certain files under  
19 investigation were uploaded or downloaded. Such information is often maintained  
20 indefinitely until overwritten by other data. Additionally, even if such information is  
21 deleted from the memory or storage of the device the data may reside on the device for an  
22 extended period of time until overwritten by the operating system of the device.

23 43. Based on my training and experience, I have learned that in addition to the  
24 traditional collector, law enforcement has encountered offenders who obtain depictions of  
25 minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct from the internet, view the contents and  
26 subsequently delete the contraband, often after engaging in self-gratification. In light of  
27 technological advancements, increasing Internet speeds and worldwide availability of

1 child sexual exploitative material, this phenomenon offers the offender a sense of  
2 decreasing risk of being identified and/or apprehended with quantities of contraband.  
3 This type of consumer is commonly referred to as a “seek and delete” offender, knowing  
4 that the same or different contraband satisfying their interests remain easily discoverable  
5 and accessible online for future viewing and self-gratification.

6 44. Based on my training and experience and my consultation with electronic  
7 forensic detectives and agents who are familiar with searches of computers and smart  
8 devices, I have learned that regardless of whether a person discards or collects depictions  
9 of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct he accesses for purposes of viewing and  
10 sexual gratification, evidence of such activity is likely to be located. This evidence may  
11 include the files themselves, logs of account access events, contact lists of others engaged  
12 in trafficking of depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct, and other  
13 electronic artifacts that may be forensically recoverable.

14 45. Based on my training and experience and my consultation with electronic  
15 forensic detectives who are familiar with searches of smart devices, I have learned that  
16 offenders will try and obfuscate data containing images and videos of minors engaged in  
17 sexual activity. One potential manner of trying to hide the contraband may be by  
18 changing file extensions. For example, an image file may often have a file extension of  
19 “.jpg” or “.jpeg” signifying that it is an image or photograph. An offender may change  
20 the file extension by selecting the “save as” format on a computer or digital device and  
21 select “.doc” or “.docx” to make it appear that instead of a contraband image or  
22 photograph, it is a word document. The same process may be used to attempt to hide a  
23 video file as well. Based on these and other attempts to hide potential contraband, it is  
24 necessary for forensic examiners to examine all potential data on the computer.

25 46. Whether some data on the phone is evidence may depend on other  
26 information stored on the computer, and the application of an examiner’s knowledge  
27 about how a computer operates. Therefore, the context, location, and data surrounding



1 information in the computer's data may be necessary to understand whether evidence  
2 falls within the scope of the warrant.

3 47. I also know based on my training and experience that obtaining subscriber  
4 information for a particular device is often useful in determining who possessed the  
5 device on a particular date and time. However, a more definitive way to determine the  
6 possessor of a device is to examine how the device is used over a period of days or  
7 weeks. The content on the device itself, over a period of time, provides vital evidence of  
8 the identity of the user of the device; such evidence can be found in communication  
9 content, email information, linked social media accounts, photos (selfies), video, and any  
10 location data on the device. Examination of all this data is necessary to accurately  
11 determine who possessed the device at dates and times critical to the investigation.

12 48. I also know based on my training and experience that a search of the digital  
13 device itself would irreversibly alter data and/or evidence on the device. The commonly  
14 accepted best practice method to search a digital device for evidence involves creating a  
15 digital image of the device and then searching that image for the responsive evidence.  
16 Creating a forensic image does not alter any evidence on the device; it only copies the  
17 data into a searchable format. The image is then searched using search tools to locate and  
18 identify that evidence whose seizure is authorized by this warrant. The unaltered device  
19 and the image are then preserved in evidence.

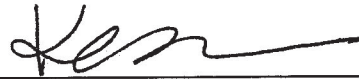
20 49. As set forth herein, I seek permission to search for and seize evidence,  
21 fruits, and instrumentalities of the above-referenced crimes, and or things or data  
22 identifying the individual engaged in the above referenced criminal activity, that might be  
23 found in the SUBJECT DIGITAL DEVICES A and B, in whatever form they are found.  
24 It has been my experience that individuals involved and interested in depictions of minors  
25 engaged in sexually explicit conduct often prefer to store images or videos depicting  
26 depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct in electronic form. The ability  
27 to store images of depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct in electronic

1 form makes digital devices an ideal repository for depictions of minors engaged in  
2 sexually explicit conduct.

3 **CONCLUSION**

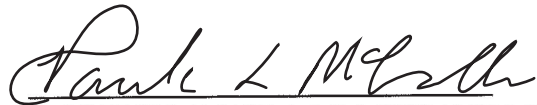
4 50. The affidavit and application are being presented by reliable electronic  
5 means pursuant to Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 4.1 and 41(d)(3).

6 51. Based on the information set forth herein, there is probable cause to search  
7 the above-described SUBJECT DIGITAL DEVICES A and B, as further described in  
8 Attachment A, for evidence, fruits, and instrumentalities, of violations of Title 18 United  
9 States Code Sections 2252(a)(2),(b)(2) Possession of Child Pornography as further  
10 described in Attachment B.

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13 KELLY H. FOREST  
14 Special Agent  
15 Federal Bureau of Investigation  
16

17 The above-named agent provided a sworn statement attesting to the truth of the  
18 foregoing affidavit by telephone on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025.

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21 THE HON. PAULA M. MCCANDLIS  
22 United States Magistrate Judge  
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**ATTACHMENT A**

**Property to Be Searched**

This warrant authorizes the seizure and search of SUBJECT DIGITAL DEVICES:

- a. SUBJECT DEVICE A: BLU View 3 cell phone IMEI 353145920663719;
- b. SUBJECT DEVICE B: a Samsung Galaxy A8 Tablet bearing S/N  
R9YT202ZF3N;

and any other electronic storage media found therein the device including internal storage device cards which are currently located at the Seattle Federal Bureau of Investigation's secure evidence section.

**ATTACHMENT B****Particular Things to be Seized**

The following items, which constitute fruits, contraband, evidence, and instrumentalities of violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(4)(B) and (b)(2) Possession of Child Pornography and 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(2) and (b)(1) Receipt or Distribution of Child Pornography, including:

1. All records on the SUBJECT DIGITAL DEVICES described in Attachment A that relate to violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(4)(B) and (b)(2), including:

a. Evidence of other accounts associated with this device including email addresses, social media accounts, messaging “app” accounts, payment apps, and other accounts that may be accessed through the digital device that will aid in determining the possessor/user of the device;

b. Evidence of use of the device to communicate with other individuals with a sexualized interest in minors or others about the above-listed crime(s), via incoming or outgoing calls, chat sessions, instant messages, text messages, app communications, social media, SMS communications, payments, and other similar digital communications related to the sexual abuse of a minor or the possession, receipt/distribution, and production of depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct;

c. Evidence of the identity of the person in possession of the device on or about any times that items of evidentiary value (user attribution evidence), located pursuant to this warrant, were created modified, accessed, or otherwise manipulated. Such evidence may be found in digital communications, photos and video and associated metadata, documents, social media activity, and electronically stored information from the digital device necessary to understand how the digital device was used, the purpose of its use, who used it, and when;

1 d. Child pornography as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256 meaning any visual  
2 depiction of sexually explicit conduct where (a) the production of the visual depiction  
3 involved the use of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct, (b) the visual depiction  
4 is a digital image, computer image, or computer-generated image that is, or is  
5 indistinguishable from, that of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct, or (c) the  
6 visual depiction has been created, adapted, or modified to appear that an identifiable  
7 minor is engaged in sexually explicit conduct), in any format or media;

8 e. Evidence of malware that would allow others to control the digital device  
9 such as viruses, Trojan horses, and other forms of malicious software, as well as evidence  
10 of the presence or absence of security software designed to detect malware; as well as  
11 evidence of the lack of such malware;

12 f. Evidence of the attachment to the digital device of other storage devices or  
13 similar containers for electronic evidence, and/or evidence that any of the digital devices  
14 were attached to any other digital device;

15 g. Evidence of counter-forensic programs (and associated data) that are  
16 designed to eliminate data from a digital device;

17 h. Evidence of times the digital device was used;

18 i. Electronically stored information from the SUBJECT DIGITAL DEVICES  
19 necessary to understand how the digital device was used, the purpose of its use, who used  
20 it, and when; and

21 j. Information that can be used to calculate the position of the SUBJECT  
22 DEVICES, including location data; cell tower usage; GPS satellite data; GPS coordinates  
23 for routes and destination queries between the above-listed dates; “app” data or usage  
24 information and related location information; and images created, accessed or modified  
25 between the above-listed dates, together with their metadata and EXIF tags.  
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